Marine Safety Policy

This safety policy adds to any existing safety policy required by the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 and relates to Marine Operations and the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code.

Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to:

- Manage its relevant assets safely and efficiently as per the Management of Health & Safety Work Regulations (NI) 2000 (as amended).
- Discharge its duties and powers in relation to marine operations
- Manage the safety of navigation for all harbour users based on a system of formal risk assessments; ensuring that risks are kept as low as reasonably practicable.
- Comply with all legal duties and responsibilities for the regulation of vessel traffic and the safety of navigation.
- Develop a consensus for safe navigation through consultation with harbour users.
- Facilitate the leisure use of the harbour, maintaining and protecting the rights of the public to access its waters for leisure use, whilst complying with the various navigational safety measures that may be in force.
- Maintain and sustain the commercial use of the harbours, upholding and promoting the rights of Masters, boat owners and other marine interests to ply their respective trades.
- Sustain its conservancy functions in respect of hydrographic surveying, navigation, dredging and the provision and maintenance of navigational aids
- Remove sunken vessels and other obstructions that are, or may become, an impediment to safe navigation.
- Promulgate relevant navigational and tidal information to all harbour users.
- Create awareness and motivation of all harbour users with respect to safety and the protection of the environment.
- Publish and maintain plans to cover emergency situations relating to the safety of life, property and the environment
- Maintain an appropriate oil spill response capability.
- Maintain relevant harbour equipment to agreed industry standards
- Ensure that operational staff are recruited and trained to nationally agreed competence levels
- Ensure that staff are properly trained for emergencies and contingencies

This policy, its associated documents and practices, will be monitored, reviewed and reported to Council, as described within the Marine Safety Management System.

		20/4/18
Stephen Reid	Chief Executive & Town Clerk	Date
	RHAdair	20/4/18
Robert Adair	Mayor	Date